

CLERK UNDER FIRE IN SIRHAN INQUIRY

Some Evidence Is Missing,
Grand Jury Asserts

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LOS ANGELES, Aug. 28— Investigation continues here into the handling of evidence in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy after grand jury criticism of County Clerk William G. Sharp for "misfeasance" in management of trial exhibits.

The County Board of Supervisors ordered its own task force this week to investigate the "competency and adequacy" of the clerk's office after receiving a letter signed by Leo D. Epstein, foreman of the grand jury, saying that some evidence used to convict Sirhan B. Sirhan was missing.

No indictments were returned, Deputy District Attorney Richard W. Hecht said, because "there is insufficient

evidence of a prosecutable crime." District Attorney Joseph P. Busch Jr. sought the grand jury inquiry when a question of evidence tampering arose during his investigation of alleged irregularities in the original ballistics study related to Senator Kennedy's death from gunshot wound on June 5, 1968.

Some Missing Pages

The grand jury letter to the board of supervisors said that several pages from two photostatic copies of Sirhan's notebooks, in which he had scribbled "R.F.K. must die," were missing. The entire copy of another notebook is said to be missing.

Mr. Sharp said he welcomed the review of his office, and that the grand jury's criticism was "totally unfounded."

He said that Sirhan's original notebooks were intact and were in the hands of the California Supreme Court, which is reviewing Sirhan's appeal of his conviction.

But Mr. Sharp added that photostatic copies of some of the notebooks were incomplete. The only missing documents, Mr. Sharp said, are applications to view the trial exhibits, which he is not required to retain.